

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Bea Antenore, President, at 9:00 a.m., in the large conference room at the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department administration building. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Bea Antenore, President
Raymond Chavarria
William Marmion
Naomi Rainey
Harry Saltzgaver
Drew Satariano

Absent: Chris Kozaites, Vice President (Excused)

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development
Bert Srack, Acting Manager, Community Recreation Services
Steven Neal, Chief Ranger
Kevin Prelgovisk, Manager, Business Operations
David Ashman, Manager, Special Events and Filming
Robin Black, Executive Secretary to the Director

Guests: Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager
Robert Lamond, Partners of Parks
Amy Coppenger, Aquarium of the Pacific
Raney Cross, CSUDH student

President Antenore welcomed a college student in attendance and asked him to introduce himself.

Mr. Raney Cross introduced himself as a recreation student at California State University Dominguez Hills, and said he was attending the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting as a class assignment.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 15, 2004

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to approve the January 15, 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – TASHA DAY

Tasha Day said that Sammy had been busy working with the Special Events and Filming staff when he was kidnapped from their office by Fire Department staff. Ms. Day said they received ransom notes and photos showing where Sammy had been on his journeys with the Fire Department. She said that Sammy was returned eventually to their office. Ms. Day awarded Sammy to Mr. Lester Thompson, from Beach Maintenance.

IV. EMPLOYEES-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATIONS FOR FEBRUARY

Commissioner Marmion announced Jennifer Stewart as Community Recreation Services Bureau's Administrative Employee of the Month. Mr. Marc Gutfeld stated that Ms. Stewart does more than clerical work for the Sports Office. He said that she also helps out by taking the lead on many projects, supports several people in the Sports Office, and also helps out with the leagues.

Commissioner Marmion announced Tudy Sanchez as Maintenance Operations Bureau's Field/Operations Employee of the Month. Mr. Ron McIntosh stated that Ms. Sanchez is a Maintenance Assistant at the downtown Shoreline Marina, which is a very high profile area. He said that she does an outstanding job in keeping the busy restrooms sparkling.

Commissioner Marmion announced Debbie Soto as Business Operations Bureau's Lead/Supervisory Employee of the Month. Mr. Kevin Prelgovisk stated that Ms. Soto is in charge of making sure that the Department employees get paid. He said that she began working for the Department in 1979, in the Special Events Volunteer Division. He said that she later became a Payroll/Personnel Assistant II and was promoted to the Lead position in that office. He said that she deals with a very complex payroll system and does a great job.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#04-0201

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to authorize the Community Recreation Services Bureau

manager or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

#04-0202

ISSUANCE OF EXCLUSIVE USE PERMIT TO VNC RACING FOR EL DORADO EAST REGIONAL PARK, AREA III

Ms. Bert Srack said that this is a permit that has been in existence for a number of years and a number of these bicycle racers have gone on to national and Olympic bicycle racing. She said that the group is extremely cooperative and this is a great revenue stream for a time at the park when there is little or no impact on uses of the facilities.

Commissioner Marmion asked if the \$200 is locked in for the whole agreement or might we want to negotiate the fee in subsequent years. Ms. Srack responded that the amount is locked in for the first year on a month-to-month basis. She said that the Department could renegotiate the fee, but for the current time the fee is still a good amount. Commissioner Marmion asked if the renegotiation of fees could be put in the recommendation then. Ms. Srack responded that staff could do that.

Mr. Hester stated that as a part of this group's activity, they also conduct bike programs at various parks, so there is a trade-off for their program.

Commissioner Satariano asked if another City would charge a higher rate for this. Ms. Srack said that she didn't believe the Department was too low on the cost because this is only a portion of the park and is not used during a peak period.

It was moved by Commissioner Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to approve the issuance of an exclusive use permit to VNC Racing for use of Area III of El Dorado East Regional Park at the reduced fee of \$200 per week, on a month-to-month basis, for the period beginning March 1, 2004 to February 28, 2006, with an additional one-year renewal on a month-to-month basis, subject to renegotiation in one year. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

**A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Antenore, Chair**

President Antenore stated that the Committee met and discussed the agenda. She said that they would also meet in a week to discuss budget issues.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
Vice President Kozaites, Chair

President Antenore stated that Vice President Kozaites was not in attendance, but the report was included in the packet.

Mr. Hester mentioned that Ms. Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager, was in attendance to provide the Commission information on the budget situation.

Ms. Mason stated that the City Manager's office would be talking to many groups to continue to distribute information on the City's budget. She distributed a letter from the City Manager to the community providing information on the budget. Ms. Mason described the City Manager's goals and discussed the budget deficit and actions taken to bridge the gap. She also distributed the City's *Report to the Community*. She stated that the City would be conducting a phone-based survey and is currently asking the community and employees for their input and ideas. Ms. Mason said that another budget summit would be held in conjunction with the survey. She stated that there is a huge challenge ahead and we are all working together to find the right balance of service changes.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Rainey, Chair

Commissioner Rainey stated that the reports were included in the packet.

Commissioner Satariano stated that he went on a ride-along with Chief Steven Neal. He said that it was his impression that having the park rangers in parks seemed to have a calming affect on the park patrons.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that the Committee met this morning and a report is included in the packet. He mentioned that they discussed the customer satisfaction surveys, which are in all the facilities and printed in several different languages.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Commissioner Marmion, Chair

Commissioner Marmion stated that the Committee met on February 9, at which time they thought the EIR for the PacifiCenter would be available to discuss. He said that the EIR was not available at that time, but they did have a discussion with a representative from Boeing and Amy Bodek, from Community Development. He stated that the Committee would meet again on March 5, at

which time they would discuss the PacifiCenter EIR, which has just been released. Commissioner Marmion stated that the Parks and Recreation Commissioners all received a copy of it and that they should pay specific attention to the recreation portion of the summary. He requested that if the Commissioners have any reactions to please call or send them to Mr. Dennis Eschen before March 4. Commissioner Marmion stated that the Committee would come up with a proposed response from the Parks and Recreation Commission, which would be on the Commission agenda on March 18.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
President Antenore, Chair

President Antenore stated that the Committee met last month and she briefly discussed the items that they went over. She said that Ms. Jodi Metz would be making a presentation on the summer program to the Parks and Recreation Commission probably in May. President Antenore stated that due to the financial situation of the School District and the City, there would only be four weeks of summer programs in 2004.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – JANUARY 2004

Commissioner Saltzgaver complemented staff on the cover of the monthly report.

Commissioner Satariano mentioned the safety figures, listed on page 4, and wondered if there was any trend developing. Mr. Hester responded that the Department is doing well, and the trend shows that the number of safety related incidents is going down. He said that a large part of this downward trend is due to the Department Safety Officer, Laurie Browning. He said that she is very aggressive in making sure employee safety training is completed and sites inspected. Mr. Hester stated that this is why the Department received the Larry C. Larson Safety Award.

Commissioner Rainey commended Cathy Jacobson Guzy for her help with the tennis program put on for the NAACP. She said that she has received requests that tennis courts be made available for the public at inner-city schools.

Mr. Hester commended the NAACP for helping to fund the program and that it is consistent to the Department's desire to bring these types of programs to the inner city. He said that the Department is currently working with Long Beach Unified School District staff on developing an informational brochure about available tennis courts.

Commissioner Rainey had a question as to how much money is generated from filming. Mr. Ashman responded that he is currently completed a study listing those numbers. He said that he would have that report ready for the Commission in the near future.

Commissioner Marmion asked about the status of the Sports Park EIR. Mr. Hester responded that a scoping meeting was held last week, attended by staff and the consultants. He said that there were a few individuals in attendance who discussed their issues. He said that the consultants mentioned there were no new issues brought up at the meeting.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

President Antenore stated that there was no correspondence.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DEPARTMENT'S STRATEGIC PLAN – STANDING ITEM

Mr. Hester stated that as part of the budget presentation, staff would also discuss with the Commission how the Department is using the Strategic Plan as a part of that process.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC AND THEIR SUSTAINABLE COASTAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Mr. Hester stated that he asked Ms. Amy Coppenger, Director of Education with the Aquarium of the Pacific, to present their Sustainable Coastal Community Program to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Coppenger thanked the Commission for allowing her to speak at the meeting. She played a video that explained the Aquarium's Sustainable Coastal Community Program held for 4th and 5th grade students.

Commissioner Marmion asked who funded this program. Ms. Coppenger responded they were able to get donations and grants representing several different organizations.

Ms. Coppenger explained that this style of learning is called design-based learning. She said that it is not out of a textbook, and it is not a boring lecture or talk. She said that this is a way to involve students by having them come up with solutions to different challenges.

B. PRESENTATION ON THE 2004 AQUATIC EVENT "LONG BEACH – GATEWAY TO ATHENS"

Mr. Hester stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission had requested a report on this event and the City's involvement. He said that he asked Steve Goodling, Executive Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), to come and discuss this event.

Mr. Goodling introduced Christian Petersen, Marketing Manager, and Beth White, the Chief Operating Officer for this project. Mr. Goodling explained that about two years ago the CVB had taken on the mission to go after the FINA, the national component of the swimming championship. He said that, unfortunately, the City did not get the event, but the staff from USA Swimming saw what the CVB had presented and they loved it. He said that they came to him to discuss putting the Olympic Swimming Trials in Long Beach. Mr. Goodling stated that the CVB discussed this and quickly submitted their application. He said that this has since transpired into the largest aquatics event ever in North America, outside the Olympic Trials.

Mr. Goodling described the venue, showing the plan and layout for the event. He mentioned that Rich Foster and Kurt Krumpholz are two other people who have spent a lot of time on this event. He said that Mr. Foster is President of USA Water Polo, the Olympic group, and is also an attorney in town. He said that Mr. Krumpholz used to be the Vice President of Speedo and now owns a local business and has a lot of connections to the aquatics world.

Ms. Beth White stated that the international teams would be performing their Olympic routines at this event and that this venue has a large seating capacity. She also mentioned that this would be the 20-year anniversary since the opening ceremonies of the 1984 Olympics held in Los Angeles.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked what the event would cost the City. Mr. Hester responded that the City has budgeted \$150,000, but the event has grown. He said that the City is committed to that amount and Mr. Dave Ashman's challenge is to try and stay within that budget. He also mentioned that this event would provide a huge economic benefit to the hotels and restaurants.

C. RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE NAME "EAST VILLAGE ARTS PARK" FOR THE MINI-PARK AT 150 ELM AVENUE

Mr. Hester stated that there would be an official opening of this park in mid-March.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to recommend to the Housing and Neighborhood Committee and the full City Council that "East Village Arts Park" is an

appropriate name for the new mini-park being developed at 150 Elm Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

Mr. Raney Cross stated that parks and recreation must be his calling because he just thrived off the meeting. He said that the presentations were excellent and he thanked the Commission for making him feel welcome.

B. STAFF

Mr. Hester invited the Commissioners to the groundbreaking for the new mini-park on the corner of Market and Dairy, on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. He said that the community designed it and the North Long Beach Project Area Committee is helping to fund the park.

Mr. Hester invited the Commissioners to attend the El Dorado Park West Senior Center expansion grand opening, which would be on Monday, February 23, at 11:30 a.m. He said that the seniors were very active in helping to raise funds to furnish the interior.

Mr. Hester also distributed the Rotary Club's brochure soliciting donations for bricks to help raise funds for the Rotary Centennial Park.

C. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Chavarria requested a presentation on the new Commission on Youth and Children.

Commissioner Marmion acknowledged the work of Heather Green. He said that he visited the Miller Foundation opening of the Children's Clinic on Pine Avenue. He said that during a discussion, he found that they desired to create "kid-friendly" artwork, and he gave them Ms. Green's name and number. He said that when it is all complete perhaps the Commission could tour the facility.

Commissioner Rainey complemented staff on repairing the piano at California Recreation Center. She also mentioned that the park is probably very busy on Saturdays because the grounds at that park are very littered on Sundays. She wondered if anything could be done about this problem. Mr. Hester responded that there is currently a contract to pick up the trash from Monday through Friday only. He said that the new contract, beginning May 1, would have seven days a week coverage.

Commissioner Satariano stated that the approval of inductees into the Halls of Fame should be coming before the Commission soon and may be placed on the agenda next month.

Ms. Srack stated that it is her pleasure to announce that both Heather Green, supervisor of the mural arts program, and Dixie Swift, supervisor of MacArthur Park/Homeland, were selected by the Public Corporation for the Arts as Enterprising Women of the Year. She said that they would be recognized at a luncheon in March.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2004, in the multi-purpose room at Houghton Park, 6301 Myrtle Avenue, Long Beach.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Antenore adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine